

Armenian Numismatic Quarterly



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1915 Armenian Holocaust Commemorative Medal

Gold-plated bronze (vermeil) medal issued to commemorate the 1915 Armenian Genocide. Diameter 76 mm, 168.46 g, struck 1984 by Medallion Art Company, Danbury, CT, for the Diocese of the Armenian Church in New York. Designed by sculptor Grigoriy Gevorkyan.

Introducing *Armenian Numismatic Quarterly*

Welcome to the first issue of *Armenian Numismatic Quarterly*. Four times each year, we hope to bring to our readers interesting and informative articles and news about coins, paper currency, tokens, medals and other artifacts that reflect the culture and heritage of the Armenian people. Our scope will be broad—all periods from prehistoric times to the present will be presented, as an integral reflection of Armenian culture and history.

For the past four decades, collectors and researchers have been ably served by *Armenian Numismatic Journal*, published by the Armenian Numismatic Society of Los Angeles. After forty years of dedicated and indefatigable service, editor Yeghia T. Nercessian recently retired from the editorship of the *Journal*, bowing to the inevitable pressures of age and health. After collaborating with Mr. Nercessian and the *Journal* for nearly thirty years, I am assuming the responsibility of continuing the voice of Armenian numismatics. We owe Mr. Nercessian a great debt of gratitude for the genuine enthusiasm, time, and unflagging effort that he has devoted for so long to the cause of Armenian numismatics, and we wish him well in his retirement.

Armenian numismatics is on the cusp of new discoveries and revelations. Hitherto unknown coins are surfacing, and researchers with challenging ideas have come to the fore. In Armenia, new coins and notes are regularly released. Meanwhile, the alarming increase in the number and variety of forgeries must be publicized to protect the collecting community.

In order for *ANQ* to succeed, reader collaboration is essential. Articles, news, reviews and editorial letters are needed. Short articles (1-5 pages) that present coins, etc. in their cultural and historical context are encouraged. Good scholarship is essential; sources should be documented with footnotes. Articles should be accompanied by high resolution digital illustrations. Text should be prepared using MS Word software. *ANQ* will be printed in English; Armenian submissions will be edited courtesy of Armenian editor Avedis Hadjian.

ANQ will utilize high quality multicolor printing and each issue will be bound with staples along the spine. The first few issues will be printed and distributed at no charge. Hopefully, we will also be able to post the journal on our interactive website.

Our hope is that *Armenian Numismatic Quarterly* can serve as a voice and forum that will bridge the gap between collectors and researchers. We are under no illusion that we can match the energy, longevity and contributions of our predecessor. Nevertheless, we feel a duty to carry the torch of Armenian numismatics until it can be passed to the next generation.

We look forward to the support and collaboration of Armenian numismatists worldwide.

Levon A. Saryan, Ph.D., Editor

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News and Views

- Our esteemed friend Anahit Mousheghian in Yerevan, informs us that a Numismatic Conference will be held to honor the memory of her father, renowned numismatist Khachadour Mousheghian, former curator of the national numismatic cabinet at the State History Museum of Armenia. The conference, to take place June 3-5, 2015, is being sponsored by the Institute of History of the Republic of Armenia National Academy of Sciences in Yerevan. Speakers from several countries are planning to attend. Sightseeing tours are planned in conjunction with the conference. Individuals interested in participating are invited to contact the organizing committee by e-mail at Kh.mousheghianconf@gmail.com or anahitm29@gmail.com.
- Three new books showcase Armenian coins as an integral facet of Armenian art and culture. *A Legacy of Armenian Treasures: Testimony to a People*, a sumptuous catalog of the Alex and Marie Manoogian Museum collection in Detroit with a chapter devoted to coins, appeared in 2013. A chapter on the Antelias coin collection was prepared for Dr. Seta Dadoyan's forthcoming *The Catholicosate of Cilicia: History, Treasures, Mission* (Antelias, 2015), and Hrair Hawk Khacherian's *100 (1915-2015)*, a photographic tour de force of Armenian treasures worldwide, features rare coins from museums in Venice, Beirut and Yerevan. The latter two books should be available shortly.
- *Armenian Numismatic Journal*, published in Los Angeles for the past 40 years, is now a two-page newsletter distributed to members. Issue No. 1 appeared on March 31. Contact Armenian Numismatic Society, 8511 Beverly Park Pl., Pico Rivera, CA 90660.
- California dealer Frank Kovacs is reportedly preparing a new catalog of ancient Armenian coins, which should be ready in a few weeks. Many new and revised attributions are anticipated. Once more information is available we will share it with our readers.
- To embrace changing technology, several enthusiasts around the world have organized a new Armenian Numismatic and Antiquities Society, headquartered in Wisconsin. There will be an active website, www.anasociety.org, for friendly and less formal speculation and discussion. We will also publish *Armenian Numismatic Quarterly*, a scholarly journal, in print format. The first few issues of *ANQ* will be printed and mailed at our expense to anyone who provides us with their mailing address.
- The inaugural issue of *ANQ*, which you hold in your hands, focuses exclusively on numismatic memorabilia of the 1915 Armenian Genocide, the centennial of which is being observed this year. It goes without saying that, as the greatest tragedy in our modern history, the Genocide is certainly a worthy topic for numismatic recognition. Future issues of *ANQ* will cover all areas of numismatics, as well as historical artifacts. Our scope will be broad, but numismatics will be our focus.



Armenia Issues Coin for 1915 Genocide Centennial

The Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia has issued a 100-dram denominated silver coin dedicated to the centennial of the 1915 Genocide of the Armenian people, according to an announcement from the bank dated February 27. The coin depicts a collage of several memorial monuments that have been erected around the world. This appears to be the first coin ever struck to commemorate the 1915 tragedy.

Without doubt, this new coin ranks as one of the most historically significant numismatic releases worldwide of 2015. The Genocide was planned and executed by the government of Ottoman Turkey, under the cover of World War I. When it was over in 1923, more than 1.5 million Armenians living in Turkey, as well as hundreds of thousands of Greeks and Assyrians, had been exterminated through massacre, forced deportation, starvation, exposure and disease.

The obverse gives the denomination “100 dram” and legends “Armenian Genocide” and (bilingually) “Republic of Armenia.” The memorials depicted on the obverse include the Monument to the Grieving Mother (Izhevsk, Russia), the Monument to the Composer Komitas (Paris), cross-stone monuments at Holy Etchmiadzin, Armenia, and Glendale, California, and the pylons of the Tsitsernakaberd Memorial Complex, situated on a hill overlooking Yerevan, Armenia’s capital.

Additional monuments are seen on the reverse. These include a statue of Armenian resistance fighters (Ujan, Armenia), an eagle (Aleppo), an Armenian woman from a memorial plaque (Sao Paulo), a cross-stone monument (Antwerp), and the pylons and spire at Tsitsernakaberd with inscriptions “Genocide of Armenians” (in Armenian) and “1915-2015.”

Viewed side by side, the obverse and reverse of the coin joined together form the complete monument of the Tsitsernakaberd complex. The stark design and gray surfaces convey the somber aspect of this tragedy. The mintage of 1000 examples will be insufficient to meet worldwide collector demand.

The coin has a diameter of 50 mm, weighs 67.2 grams of 925 fine silver, and is struck in antique finish with a plain edge. Designed by artists Souren Simonyan and Aram Ouroutyan, the coin was produced under contract for the Central Bank by the Lithuanian Mint.—*L. A. Saryan, Ph.D.*

1915 Russia-Armenia Genocide Commemorative Medal Reissued in Yerevan

By L. A. Saryan, Ph.D.



1915 Russians to Armenians medals: original 1915 gilt bronze (left), 32.7 mm diameter, 14.60 g and modern 2012 silver reissue (right), 38.2 mm diameter, 26.16 g. Obverse: twin-headed eagle and bilingual legend; reverse: Armenian cross and bilingual legend. Illustrations enlarged.

In 1915, a privately issued medal commemorating the Armenian Genocide was struck in Petrograd (St. Petersburg), Russia.¹ As far as we know, this remarkable and highly important medal is the earliest known artistic memorial of this horrific tragedy. The medal, depicting an artistically designed Armenian style cross and a twin-headed eagle, is a beautiful fusion of Russian and Armenian symbols. The legends convey the solidarity of Russia with the Armenian people during their time of trial.

The original medal was one of three types struck at the beginning of World War I under the auspices of the Russian Numismatic Society to express friendship and solidarity with Poles, Serbians and Armenians during the conflict. All three types were engraved by Georgi Ivanovitch Malyshev (unsigned) and struck at the atelier of Auguste Jacquard. According to Diakov,² examples of the Armenian medal were issued in 28 mm diameter (with loop) and 33 mm in gold, silver, and bronze. While the number issued is unknown, one thing is certain: after the passage of a century, examples are now rare and difficult to locate. I have never seen a gold example; two bronze examples in my collection appear to have been gilt at one time.

In 2012, the Armenian Genocide Museum and Institute (AGMI) in Yerevan took the initiative to prepare a new edition of this medal following the original design. The new issue is limited to 100 examples in three metallic compositions: copper (or bronze), silver, and gold-plated (probably on copper). With the kind assistance of friends in Yerevan I was able to procure a three-medal set for research and display purposes.

The AGMI medals are larger in diameter (38.2 mm) than the originals (28 mm or 33 mm only) and are struck from newly engraved dies, which differ in minor details from the original issue. They omit the name of the Petrograd workshop (A. Jacquard) that was inscribed in small letters on the original pieces and there are slight differences in engraving. The restrikes are inscribed on the edge with the letters Հ.Յ.Թ. (abbreviation for Armenian Genocide Museum) and a three-digit serial number. Weights of the three examples in my collection are: 25.31 grams (gold-plated, no. 010), 26.16 grams (silver, no. 042), and 25.47 grams (copper, no. 065).

AGMI, in collaboration with Yerevan Jewelry Factory-1, is issuing limited-edition medals commemorating the work of noteworthy Armenophiles—Clara Barton, Fridtjof Nansen, James Bryce and Franz Werfel—whose efforts contributed to Armenian relief and helped to publicize the atrocities. The reissued 1915 Russia-Armenia medals, made with care reflecting the high standards of modern medallic art, were probably produced at the same factory.

¹ See Yevgeny Simonian, *Armenian Numismatic Journal*, Vol. 10 (40), March 2014, p. 12. This medal is discussed by Henry Sarkissian, “The Armenian Theme in Russian Medallic Art,” *Works of the Armenian State History Museum*, Vol. 6 (Yerevan, 1975), pp. 135-137 (in Russian); varieties are listed by Diakov in his multivolume catalogue of Russian medals, nos. 1584.1 and 1584.2. Also see the letter of Vahe Oshagan and the editor’s reply published in *Armenian Numismatic Journal*, Vol. 14, March 1988, p. 1.

² M. E. Diakov, *Medals of the Russian Empire* (2006), no. 1584.1 and 1584.2

An Exceptional Token of the American Near East Relief Committee 'Khanasor' Workers' Cooperative of Alexandrapol

by L. A. Saryan, Ph.D.



Tokens are unofficial currencies issued by non-governmental entities such as shops and businesses. Often, their purpose is to facilitate small transactions in a localized area especially when there is a shortage of coins or small change in the marketplace. Tokens are typically printed on paper or struck in various metals. Within the sphere of Armenian numismatics, paper and metal tokens were issued by Armenian churches, schools, and commercial establishments toward the later years of the Ottoman Empire (especially between 1876-1878).¹ Paper tokens were used in Caucasian Armenia in the

¹ Kenneth MacKenzie discusses paper and thin cardboard tokens from the Ottoman period in two articles: "Armenian Church Tokens Used in the Ottoman Empire," *International Bank Note Society Journal*, Vol. 17, No. 2, pp. 85-94 (1978), and "Armenian Church Tokens," *Armenian Numismatic Journal*, Vol. 4, pp. 147-160 (1978). Metallic tokens are discussed in articles by Paul Z. Bedoukian, "Two Armenian Tokens," *Armenian Numismatic Journal*, Vol. 8 (38), pp. 89-92 (2012, translated by L. A. Saryan from an article

aftermath of World War I and the Russian Revolution (circa 1918 to 1924). The fact that both periods were times of economic and political crisis during which coined money had virtually disappeared from circulation helps explain the *raison d'être* of these monetary substitutes.

In this article, we present an important and possibly unique Armenian paper token from the 1918-1924 period to our readers. This token, issued by the “Khanasor” Workers’ Cooperative of the American Near East Relief Committee in Alexandrapol, was acquired for examination and study by this researcher in 2008 from a collector in Germany. To the best of our knowledge this note is published here for the first time.

Paper Tokens in Caucasian Armenia

During times of war and crisis, metallic coinage often disappears from daily use. Following four devastating years of World War I (1914-1918), during which the Caucasus became a theatre of conflict with attendant dislocation and suffering of hundreds of thousands of people, coins of all types were withdrawn from circulation and hoarded by the public. At least seven different categories of paper currencies circulated in Caucasian Armenia during the first Republic of Armenia (1918-1920).² These include (1) official government notes issued by the short-lived Transcaucasian Commissariat (Seim), (2) checks drawn against banks such as the Tiflis Commercial Bank and the Azov-Don Commercial Bank which circulated as money, (3) paper notes (so-called “checks”) printed by the authority of the government of the Republic of Armenia which were secured by a loan from the Yerevan branch of the Russian State Bank, (4) artistic currency notes of the Republic of Armenia dated 1919, printed by Waterlow & Sons, Ltd. of London,³ (5) paper currency issued by city governments such as Yerevan, Alexandrapol, Kars and others, (6) interest bearing notes of the Armenian government, and (7) privately issued paper tokens⁴ issued by commercial establishments, charitable organizations, and cooperatives.⁵ The lack of contemporary records, the difficulty in accessing (or absence of) archival data, and often the rarity of examples themselves hinder a comprehensive understanding of monetary relations during this period.

Very little information is available about private paper tokens used in Caucasian Armenia. They are mentioned briefly in specialized catalogs and a few articles have been

which originally appeared in *Handes Amsorya* in 1988), and L. A. Saryan, “Trade Tokens Issued by Meguerditch Tokatlian of Constantinople,” *Armenian Numismatic Journal*, Vol. 3 (33), pp. 81-86 (2007).

² Paper currency circulating in Armenia from 1918 to 1930 is cataloged and discussed in Y. T. Nercessian, *Bank Notes of Armenia* (Los Angeles: Armenian Numismatic Society, 1988). Paper notes of the Republic of Armenia continued to circulate for a few months following the fall of the Republic in December 1920, until they were replaced by currency notes of the SSR of Armenia beginning in 1921.

³ L. A. Saryan, “Armenia’s Mysteries,” *Bank Note Reporter*, Vol. XXIV, No. 7 (July 1986), pp. 18-21.

⁴ Privately issued tokens are not listed in *Bank Notes of Armenia*.

⁵ In addition to offering a convenient means of issuing change during a transaction, private tokens also serve an advertising function and may help to direct customers to a particular establishment for repeat business. If tokens are not ultimately redeemed, a profit can accrue to the issuer.

written. Katsitadze lists some types in his 1924 Russian-language catalog.⁶ A rare Russian publication from 1927 lists several token issues.⁷ The late specialist Jack Guevrekian describes and illustrates some private and commercial tokens of this period based on examples from his personal collection.⁸ Ryabchenko makes an effort to list all types of paper emissions including private tokens, but does not offer any information about the issuers or circumstances under which they were used.⁹ Nikolaev's recent book on Armenian paper currency does not illustrate token currencies.¹⁰ A detailed article describing paper tokens of the Koupalian Store was recently published.¹¹ Generally, it can be stated that information about Armenian private tokens is sparse, and this topic remains an open field for investigation and discovery.

The single token presented in this article is a 3-ruble denomination, issued by the "Khanasor" Workers Cooperative of the American Near East Relief Committee at Alexandrapol. It is inscribed only in Armenian, and to the best of our knowledge, it has not been described or illustrated in numismatic literature heretofore.¹²

Description

This is a uniface token printed in black ink on very thin, cream-colored paper, watermarked with a fine mesh network. Overall dimensions of the note are 54 x 71 mm, dimensions of the printed surface are 39 x 59 mm. The edges of the paper are slightly damaged and there is a brown stain near the top of the note where a rusty paper clip was attached. A tear has been repaired on the back. A simple double-line rectangular frame (one line thicker than the other) with a few breaks encloses an eight-line Armenian legend. Between the second and third lines of text is a two-line (one wavy, one straight) frame dividing the text into two sections. The serial number and signature are inscribed by hand. The legend reads from top to bottom as follows:

⁶ V. Katsitadze, *Catalog of Paper Money of the Russian Revolutionary Period* (Tiflis, 1924), in Russian. I have been unable to consult a copy of this catalog, but am indebted to Mr. Nercessian who in an email dated 19 June 2013 informs me that it mentions private tokens from five different issuers: the Soldier's Aid Society, the Armenian Dramatic Association, Zhamagochians, Koupalian, and Miutun.

⁷ V. M. Sokolov and M. L. Ivanov, *Catalogue of the Non-essential (Private) Notes Circulated on the Territory of the USSR, 1914-25* (Rostov-on-Don, Russia: North Caucasian Branch of the All-Union Collectors Society and Yu. B. Khelmer, representative of the All-Union Philatelic Agency, 1927), p. 2 (in Russian).

⁸ J. Guevrekian, "Notes on Some Tokens of Armenia," *Armenian Numismatic Journal*, Vol. 9, No. 4 (December 1983), pp. 38-44. Tokens from five issuing agencies are presented in this article: Railway Workers Cooperative, Russian Dramatic Theatre of Leninakan, Shirak Canal, Soldiers' Aid Society, and Yeranorian Brothers.

⁹ P. F. Ryabchenko, *Complete Catalogue of Paper Banknotes and Bills of Russia, USSR, CIS Countries (1769-1994)*, (Kiev, 1995), pp. 557-567, in Russian. Issues of Armenia including paper tokens are listed on pp. 557-567 (nos. 22401 to 22647).

¹⁰ Rostislav Nikolaev, *Currency Notes of Armenia from 1918-1924* (Yerevan, 2006), in Russian.

¹¹ L. A. Saryan, "Rare Tokens of the Koupalian Store in the Saryan Collection," *Armenian Numismatic Journal*, Vol. 6 (36), No. 2 (June 2010), pp. 45-49.

¹² Although the token described here is NOT listed in the rare 1927 Sokolov and Ivanov catalog, the digital scan of this reference in my possession shows a handwritten notice, inserted by an earlier collector at the bottom of p. 2, indicating the existence of a 3-ruble "Khanasor" note.

ԱԼԷԲ - ՊՕԼԻ

Ամերիկեան Կոմիտէի

No (the number 243, handwritten in black ink, is inserted here)

Աշխատատւոյ. կօօսյ.

“ԽԱՆԱՍՈՐ”

ԵՐԵՔ ԲՈՒԲԼԻ

3 քուքի

Վարչ. նախագահ՝

(signature in black ink, possibly belonging to G. Balian¹³)

The Armenian Orphan City at Alexandropol

The information recorded on the token provides clues to its attribution. The “Alek-Boli American Committee” (first two lines) undoubtedly refers to the Alexandropol branch of the American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief (later the Near East Relief) which operated a massive orphanage in that city (today Gyumri, the second largest city in Armenia) from 1915-1924. The token was valid at the “Khanasor” Workers Cooperative (fourth and fifth lines). It can be speculated that workers recruited from the local population who were employed by the American Committee to provide care for the orphans were paid with these tokens, and/or used them at a convenient nearby shop where they could procure items required for their personal daily needs.

As is well known, in early 1915, the Ottoman Turkish government, under the dictatorship of Talaat Pasha, initiated the genocide of the Armenian inhabitants of Turkey. Peaceful men, women, and children scattered in towns and villages in Ottoman Turkey were subjected to brutal massacres, violent deportations, and forced conversions to Islam. Movable and immovable property was confiscated. Within a few months hundreds of thousands of Armenians had been violently uprooted from their native homes and villages, and the few who were able to escape fled in every direction. Survivors found themselves homeless, hungry and destitute, in most cases hundreds of miles away from their ancestral homes.

As news of the atrocities spread, American Ambassador Henry Morgenthau cabled the State Department in Washington in September of 1915 to urge that relief efforts be initiated to save a remnant of the Armenian people. Recognizing the acute humanitarian need, James L. Barton of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions had within a few days secured the leadership of the noted industrialist Cleveland H. Dodge to spearhead this effort. Several other prominent American

¹³ The author is indebted to Rev. Daron Stepanian for suggesting this reading.

businessmen, clergy, and public officials were enlisted to support the mission. The work of the great charitable effort known as the Near East Relief, which became the largest humanitarian effort of its kind up to that time, had begun. By the time the effort was concluded around 1930, more than \$110 million had been raised, more than 1 million lives rescued, and 132,000 orphans cared for.

On September 16, 1915, the Armenian Relief Committee was formed in New York.¹⁴ Before the year was over the name was changed to American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief, and ultimately to Near East Relief. The aim of the committee was to rescue and provide food, clothing, and shelter for those who had survived. To this end, one major project was the construction and operation of a massive orphan city in Alexandropol, which became the largest facility of its kind in the world at the time, housing at one point more than 30,000 orphans.¹⁵ The Alexandropol orphanage was established in the former Czarist Russian army barracks located in the city. The Kazachi post had 90 buildings and adequate housing for large numbers of children. The Seversky barracks in another area of the city were used as a medical center.¹⁶

Shortly after the committee was organized, the American consul in Tiflis, F. Willoughby Smith, appealed for funds to feed, clothe, and shelter 300,000 destitute Armenian refugees and orphans who had escaped to the Caucasus.¹⁷ After the outbreak of hostilities in 1914, American consular officials were almost the only Americans left in the region. Some American missionaries accompanied refugees fleeing from Van to the Caucasus in August 1918, and others arrived from the Urmia region in Persia. Consul Smith formed these Americans into a volunteer relief committee, with Samuel G. Wilson as chairman and himself as treasurer. He then appealed to New York for funds and was able to secure an initial contribution of \$40,000 as early as October, 1915.

The activities of the committee expanded as conditions became worse. By early 1918, the situation in the Caucasus had become critical. Political instability in the region, combined with the impending Turkish military invasion, led Consul Smith to order an evacuation of the American workers, most of whom escaped by crossing Asiatic Russia to the Pacific coast city of Vladivostok. Two Americans, John Elder (who was too ill to travel) and James Arroll, who was assisting Elder, stayed behind.¹⁸ "Thousands of children and orphans," writes Barton, "survived because these two men remained."¹⁹

The New York Committee appropriated funds for the Caucasus, without knowing how the funds could be spent or used. In order to obtain money to continue their work, Elder and Arroll wrote drafts against the New York Committee, which were eventually presented in New York for payment. According to Barton, local merchants were more

¹⁴ James L. Barton, *Story of Near East Relief (1915-1930): An Interpretation* (New York; MacMillan, 1930), pp. 79-88, 120-137. Robert L. Daniel, *American Philanthropy in the Near East: 1820-1960* (Athens, OH: Ohio University Press, 1970), p. 150.

¹⁵ Barton, p. 127.

¹⁶ Daniel, p. 159.

¹⁷ Barton, pp. 82-83.

¹⁸ Daniel, p. 152.

¹⁹ Barton, p. 87.

than happy to accept New York drafts of the Committee in exchange for money which was used carry out the relief work.²⁰ When the Americans departed, some funds were left with local boards consisting of prominent community members and clergy (Armenians). The local staff were able to care and feed the orphans, but had no means of raising their own funds.

The text clearly indicates that the token was issued by the “Khanasor” Workers’ Cooperative of the American Committee in Alexandropol. The reference to the “American Committee” places this note within the 1916-1924 time period, and the low face value (3 rubles) suggests that it was issued before inflation in Armenia had begun to accelerate in late 1919. The note can therefore be tentatively dated to 1918 or early 1919.

It is curious and interesting that the word “Khanasor”²¹ is employed on this token as the name of the cooperative. Khanasor was the name of a plain in the province of Van (western Armenia) where, in the summer of 1897, revolutionary fighters under the leadership of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation inflicted devastating punishment on the Kurdish Mazrig tribe, which had collaborated with the Turks during the bloody massacres of Armenians in 1895. The victory at Khanasor had left a lasting impression on the people of Van. In 1915, the Armenians of Van were singled out for persecution by the Turks, but resisted and organized a defense. After the Russian rescue of the Armenian defenders, many inhabitants of Van escaped to Caucasian Armenia which was under Russian protection. It is therefore possible to speculate that the cooperative was used by refugees from the city of Van.

This small but important piece of currency recalls four of the most significant episodes in the recent history of the Armenian nation: (1) the 1915 Armenian genocide; (2) the Republic of Armenia (1918-1920); (3) the outpouring of humanitarian aid, especially from the United States of America, which helped to rescue Armenia and its people during this perilous period; and (4) the exploits of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation, which defended Ottoman Armenians against predatory attacks by Kurds and Turks during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It is remarkable that a small fragment of paper simultaneously reflects so many aspects of the modern Armenian heritage.

This report just scratches the surface of the story behind this wonderful and fascinating token. It would be interesting to learn if other examples and denominations of this token exist, and more details about how these were used. Its discovery and presentation to the numismatic community confirms that the frontiers of Armenian numismatic research continue to expand as new and interesting items are discovered.

²⁰ Barton, p. 87.

²¹ Khanasor was located in the province of Vaspurakan in western Armenia.